Year	No. of GTs recruited
2004	263
2005	21
2006	321
2007	294

(c) GTs selected for appointment in ONGC during 2001 to 2007 were paid an initial pay of Rs. 12000/- per month in the pay scale of Rs. 12000-17500/- besides usual allowances and perquisities, as applicable.

In 2005 batch some GTs were paid consolidated stipend of Rs. 17000/- per month. Subsequently, their services were regularized from the date of their joining. Thereafter, recruitment of GTs on consolidated stipend basis has been discontinued.

Projects of IGL

†4264. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has directed Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) to discontinue development projects for the time being;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether reasons have been cited by the above Board for issuing of the said order;

(c) whether implementation of the above direction would affect work of several projects; and

(d) if so, the names of these projects and amount so far spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRID1NSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has directed Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) not to undertake any new or incremental activity/activities relating to laying, building, operating or expanding City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks without prior authorization of the Board unless there are any specific directions from any Courts to undertake any new or incremental activity or activities in any particular city or local area.

(b) The Board has conveyed to IGL that the information furnished by IGL does not establish that IGL was authorized by the Central Government at any time before the appointed date (October 1, 2007) in terms of Section 17(2) of PNGRB Act, 2006.

(c) and (d) Implementation of the above direction would affect the supply of gas to prospective customers. IGL is taking up the issue with the Board.

Fire at Bombay High

4265. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on the application of the ambit of Contract Labour Act and its fulfillment in letter and spirit in ONGC, after the fire at Bombay High ONGC Platform;

(b) if so, the outline of the study report; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) ONGC follows Govt, of India Rules, Regulations as enacted from time to time in letter and spirit.

No study by ONGC has been undertaken on the Contract Labour Act.

(b) In view of above, does not arise.

(c) As on date, the question of applicability of the said Act in off-shore operations in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) *i.e* beyond the Territorial Waters of India, is sub-judice before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay.

Allotment of CoCo Dealership

4266. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Oil Corporation specially Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is still allotting its permanent Company Owned Company Operated (CoCo) dealership on ad-hoc basis to its existing dealers in violation of Multiple Dealership norms and guidelines issued vide Policy Circular dated 6 September, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of each CoCo awarded on ad-hoc dealership basis after 6 September, 2006 location-wise, Division Office-wise etc.;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for such violations; and

(d) the corrective action proposed to be taken to ensure the strict compliance of policy guidelines dated 6 September, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas vide letter dated 6.9.2006 had issued broad guideline on operation of Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) outlets based on which the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) were advised to frame their own detailed guidelines. These guidelines also provide the broad parameters for operating permanent COCO by OMCs. OMCs are in the process of framing uniform guidelines on the basis of Ministry's broad guidelines with regard to appointment of labour contractors at permanent COCOs. In the intervening period, OMCs are operating their permanent COCOs either with labour contractors or on ad hoc basis as per their existing guidelines. The details of the locations of permanent COCOs are available with the Director (Marketing) of concerned OMCs.